



2012 OPI/MTEA Conference Speakers and Workshop Presenters April 22-24, 2012 • Billings, Montana



Debbie Cottonware has trained new driver education instructors at Montana State University-Northern since 2000. She currently serves as an Instructional Facilitator for Sweetwater County School District 2 in Green River, Wyoming. In 2003, the American Driver & Traffic Safety Education Association (ADTSEA) honored Debbie as Traffic Education Teacher of the Year.

Capt. Keith Edgell has been with the Montana Highway Patrol since April 1986 and was sworn in as a trooper on July 1, 1987. The first 12 years of his career were spent working as a trooper in Billings. The captain is currently the District 4 Commander overseeing day-to-day patrol operations in five counties. He also serves as Chair of the Region IV Law Enforcement Committee and Vice-Chair of the Driver License Standing Committee.

Scot Ferda and **Bill Roche** have a combined 60 years of teaching driver education in Whitefish.

Dana Geary has been the Tobacco Use Prevention and Education Specialist at the Montana Office of Public Instruction since 2010 where she works on Comprehensive Tobacco Free School Policy and educating Montana teachers on media literacy. Prior to moving to Montana in 2002, Dana was a police officer for the Rapid City Police Department, and also worked as a Patrol Officer and a Crime Prevention Officer trained in the D.A.R.E. Program.

Rich Hanson is an adjunct instructor for Western Oregon University's Traffic Safety Education program. Rich has been a driver education instructor since 2002 and has been highly involved in developing quality driver education programs throughout Oregon. He was named 2006 Teacher of the Year by ADTSEA and the American Automobile Association.

Tim Harris recently retired from a distinguished career at the Montana Office of Public Instruction where he inspired, encouraged, and ensured appropriate services and opportunities for children and youth with disabilities through his work as the state Director of Special Education.

Glenn Kanvick teaches driver education for the Billings School District and instructs Automotive Technology at the Billings Career Center. He is an ASE Certified Master Automotive and Heavy Duty Truck technician and a former SkillsUSA MT Secretary.

Kurtis Koenig has taught driver education at Ennis High School since 2007 where he also teaches English. He received his high school education in Sheridan, Montana, and went on to study at Montana State University.

Harold Lair teaches and coordinates driver education in Polson as well as Montana DRIVE advanced driver workshops in Lewistown each summer. He is a past president of MTEA and has given countless hours of service to MTEA and the Executive Board of Directors. He currently serves as editor of *MTEA News* and advises OPI on traffic education curricula. Harold received MTEA's Teacher of the Year Award in 1993 and 2005. Also in 2005 he received ADTSEA's Teacher of the Year award. Harold is a popular speaker at local, state and national safety conferences.

Patrick McJannet is the Field Operations Manager for the Motor Vehicle Division at the Montana Department of Justice. He and Kristine Thatcher partner with OPI to oversee the CDTP and provide training at MTEA conferences each year.

Katie Potts has worked for the Montana Department of Transportation since May of 2008. In the fall of 2009 she was assigned to work on the Respect the Cage project to bring seat belt and impaired driving prevention awareness to the citizens of Montana. Since the program's inception, it has reached out to nearly 200,000 Montanans through direct conversations at events.

Fran Penner-Ray is Director of Traffic Education at the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) where she has worked in Traffic Education since 2004. She worked alongside David Huff, who retired in 2011. Her prior work experience includes positions in education, medical libraries and as an elected town council member in Colorado. She worked for nine years in an elementary school and as a planning board member. At OPI, she provides vision, support, and leadership for schools and communities to improve traffic safety education in an effort to reduce young driver crashes.

Tyler Presnell was seriously injured in a car crash at the age of 14. The driver of the car was a 16-year-old friend of the family who had been licensed to drive for less than a week. Over the past decade, Tyler has spoken to various audiences, ranging from a small classroom with ten students to the nation's Capitol filled with members of the House and Senate. On stage, Tyler motivates audiences to not only drive more safely, but to not give up on personal dreams. He talks about his family, his lifelong recovery and subsequent pain, and what it's like to live each day with a traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Dr. Jean Thatcher Shope is a Research Professor in the Young Driver Behavior and Injury Prevention Group and serves as an Associate Director of the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI). Dr. Shope directed the University of Michigan Center for Injury Prevention among Youth, and co-founded the University of Michigan Injury Center, a collaboration among UMTRI, the U-M School of Public Health and the Medical School. She has worked in the areas of adolescent health promotion and risk reduction for over 30 years, and in the area of adolescent and young adult driving for nearly 20 years.

Kristine Thatcher is the Field Operations Bureau Chief for the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) at the Montana Department of Justice. Before being named Bureau Chief, she was MVD's Great Falls Regional Manager. She began her career in 1991 as a driver license examiner. She and Patrick McJannet work closely with OPI's Traffic Education Program to administer the Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP) within Montana's school districts.

Brad Von Bergen is Trauma Program Coordinator at the Billings Clinic. For over 10 years, has presented the "Life is Hard, Play Safe" training to high school students to encourage injury prevention.

The Yellowstone County DUI Task Force is a group of diverse individuals comprised of law enforcement, prosecutors, educators, prevention specialists, counselors, and area business representatives appointed by the County Commissioners with the mission of promoting a healthier and safer environment for county residents by attempting to reduce the number of alcohol-related incidents through public education, awareness, legislation and enforcement strategies.